Living with our choices

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Living With Our Choices
Lesson for August 23, 1981
Bible Study Passage: Deuteronomy 30:11-20
Introduction

Life is a smorgasbord that presents us with numerous choices, some of which are extremely difficult to make. And while making choices can be painfully difficult at times, living with our decisions can be even more laborious than the actual choice.

This week we hear once again from Moses and his impassioned appeal to the people to make and follow the right choice. It was "show time" for the people of Israel! They were at a point in time which called for a positive response.

The Bible & Daily Living

Confronting The Choice Head On [Deut. 30:11-14]

Some choices are difficult to make simply because we do not have all of the facts. Such choices must oftentimes be made with a deep sense of faith in God and in one's ability to "go with our feelings."

A poster in my office reads, "Faith is walking to the edge of all the light you have and taking one more step." This saying pretty such sums up our dilemma in certain choices and decisions. Faith is the opposite of fear, and fear keeps many a person from trying the untried road.

Some choices, however, demand an immediate response. Such choices are made on the basis of information and facts already known at the time. Moses had presented the necessary information the people needed in order to make firm their commitment to Yahweh. Now it was up to them. Their search was over; all that the people needed to bind themselves to the Lord's commandments had been revealed to them from Sinai and through Moses.

A Choice Too Distinct To Miss [Deut. 30:15-18]

Certain choices we make are clearly marked for us, that is, the signs all point in one direction or another. Such signs make it easier for us to choose the correct path. Others, however, require closer scrutiny and consideration before we leap.

Life is for when things seem to be mapped out for us. I canoe a great deal in my leisure time. The white water rivers on which I have canoed have taught me and my canoe pals an invaluable lesson, namely, go with the flow. Thus, the tried and proven routes in life are those traveled by other pilgrims who journeyed and survived:

God speaks and urges his people to walk after goodness and not after the ways of evil. The people of Israel were commanded to keep the statutes of God in order to receive blessing. God had set before them the choice of the good life or the evil life. The benefits of the good far outweighed the benefits of the evil.

Such is life. If we are good to life, life will be good to us. But if we choose to think and act negatively, we run the risk of losing out on some of life's greatest opportunities. Love for God is our greatest assurance against the life of evil and wrong choices.

The Urgency of Decision [Deut. 30:19-20]

We can easily develop the habit of procrastination and passivity in making decisions. And procrastination can deter us from making those decisions we need to make. In fact, the failure to decide can cause us to lose out on some unique opportunities.

Fear can be a crippler when it comes to making decisions. We fear personal failure, rejection, and loss of esteem in the eyes of others. Fear keeps many a person from putting their best foot forward.

Moses urges upon the people the importance of choosing rightly in order to enjoy the gift of abundant life. Some choices in life present us with risk and the possibility of failure. Moses impressed upon the people that to choose to live obedient unto the Lord could only bring blessing.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

The Pastor Speaks

By KITCH SHATZER
Read Exodus 35:30 - 36:7.

Moses faced an enviable dilemma. What pastor or church board has not fondly dreamed of such a situation? Can you imagine a modern minister in a modern church earnestly pleading with the congregation to desist from giving so generously to the church? Can you hear him or her announce, "You have been giving so generously toward the ministries of the church that we will not need to have the ushers receive your offerings or tithes?"

This would be a real candidate for Ripley's "Believe It or Not"!

The Israelites needed a place of worship. This demanded the best in skill and material. God gave the skill and material. God gave the skill and then depended upon His people to supply the material. On God's part, He gave "much more than enough." God provided the man; He filled him with His Spirit in wisdom, understanding and knowledge. Equally important, God gave Bezabel the ability to teach. Now the rest was up to the people. And what a response there was!

What a wonderful combination-The blending of the diving "more than enough" with the human "more than enough." This blending of God and humankind caused the pagans of Paul's day to cry out, "These that have turned the world upside down have come here also."

Let us ask God to reveal to us any difficiency in our own stewardship of time, money or abilities. Pray that His amazing love may result in our commitment being so complete that no need will remain neglected and unmet.

Kitch Shetzer is pastor of Concord, Beale Memorial, Buffalo and Madisonville Presbyterian Churches.

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Times-Virginian

Church News

Davis delivers message

Impressive services were held at the Galilee Baptist Church Sunday at 11 a.m. The assistant pastor, Rev. A. E. Davis, delivered the morning message. Music was rendered by the Senior and Junior Choirs. Several visitors were present.

A large number of members and friends attended the annual homecoming at the Springfield Baptist Church on last Sunday. The pastor, Rev. Harrison Kelso, delivered the morning message and the Rev. J. W. Paige was the afternoon speaker. Beautiful music was rendered by the Bedford Community Chorus. The Rev. Paige will be the guest Evangelist for the week.

The general public is cordially invited to attend annual homecoming and beginning of revival this fourth Sunday at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Promise Land Baptist Church. The pastor elect, Davis, will bring the morning message and the Rev. R. Q. Lawing, Jr. and his choir will be the afternoon guests. Rev. Lawing, Jr. will serve as guest speaker for the week of services. Area choirs and groups will sing nightly.

Again, we would like to remind all friends who are planning to go to Baltimore that our bus will be leaving Galilee Baptist Church at 4:30 on the 5th Sunday morning. We will appreciate your cooperation in securing your seats on the bus.

Local Sunday schools are reminded that the East and West bound Sunday School Union will convene on the fifth Sunday in November with the Morning Star Sunday School. The date is November 29. The Union begins at 10 a.m.

Successful revivals and Homecomings were reported at the St. Joy Baptist Church. The Canaan Baptist Church, Mt. Shiloh and Chestnut Grove Baptist Churches. The Rev. Medley is guest speaker for Chestnut Grove services.

Mr. and Mrs. Pleas Patterson and family of Baltimore, Md. spent the weekend with his aunt, Mrs. Alpha Brown. Mrs. Frances Tibbs is continuing her visit with family and friends. Mrs. Artie Burgess and Mrs. Rose Pitts were guest of relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Lawing. Mrs. A. B. Honeysuckle and family are visiting Mrs. Beatrice Haskins.

Mr. Tim Lawing attended the 14th annual Gospel Music Workshop of America convention which met in Los Angeles, California. The convention consisted of training programs in all phases of church worship. Mr. Lawing served as associate instructor in the gospel piano and vocal music department. A representation of nearly 28,000 members was present from all 50 states. Highlights of the convention were on the TODAY TV show Monday morning.

In conclusion, let us remember to pray one for another and ask God's blessings on everyone. Have an enjoyable week!

Services slated

Regular preaching services will be held at Jordan Baptist Church this Sunday at 11 a.m.

The Heavenly Gospel Chorus will render music at the evening service, which will start at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Mary Holland's anniversary will be celebrated at the church the fifth Sunday starting at 7:30 p.m.

Promise Land Church plans for homecoming

The Promise Land Baptist Church Homecoming will be held August 23, at 11:00 a.m.

The Rev. Albert E. Davis will be speaker for the morning service, accompanied by the Pleasant Valley Men's Chorus.

The Rev. Raymond Q. Lawing Jr. will be speaker for the evening service along with his choir from Buckingham County. During the morning service Promise Land will hold an honor service for Mr. Edgar Chilton, the oldest member of the church.

Lunch will be served in the dining hall after morning service. We are asking everyone to come out and share this day of joy with us.

Promise Land Revival will begin the week of Aug. 24-28. The Rev. Raymond Q. Lawing, Jr., will be our guest speaker for the week. Guest choirs for the week are as follows:

Monday - Gospel Harmonet; Tuesday-Promise Land Senior Choir; Wednesday-The "Jet Unlimited"; Thursday-Morning Star Senior Choir; Friday-The Chancels Choir.

Prayer service will begin each night at 7:30 p.m.

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NOTICE
Due to an indefinite medical leave of absence of Dr. S. R. Lawson — Dr. Kyle Wheeler will be associating with Dr. John M. Fedison in the Practice of Dentistry.

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Hollywood News

By MARY BAGBY

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. Psalm 121-1.

Rev. Dan Menser brought a fine message to the people of Hollywood Baptist Church, Aug. 9. The duties of a deacon was his topic. Mr. Steve Cawthorn was elected deacon at this service.

Sincere Sympathy is extended to the families and love ones of Mr. Crote Drinkard and Miss Janice Woodson who passed away last week.

Mrs. Thomas Woodall's father, Mr. Clarence Coffey of Covington was operated on Tuesday, Aug.11 in Roanoke at the Roanoke Memorial Hospital. We wish for him a very speedy recovery. Our love and prayers are with him and his love ones.

Mr. D. R. Turns of Rustburg was operated on Aug. 5 at the Lynchburg General Hospital. We wish for him a very speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Turns, Mrs. Bennett Gilliam and Mrs. W. T. Covington visited Mrs. J. L. Programe Tuesday.

Visiting Mrs. Madeline Ingle during the weekend were Mr. and Mrs. Larry Jones Ferguson and Mr. Billy Ferguson of Richmond and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ingle, Scott and Dana Inge of Lynchburg.

The families of the late Mr. and Mrs. Nat Bagby held their annual reunion Sunday, Aug. 9 at the Woodman of the World Building in Appomattox.

Mrs. Loan Rowles Mayberry and Mr. and Mrs. Ryland Mayberry of Newport News spent the weekend of Aug. 9 with Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Deaner and family of Appomattox and Mr and Mrs. Roy St. John of Charlotte Court House. Mrs. loan Mayberry is spending some time in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Deaner and family. Other guest in this home were Mrs. Ray St. John and Mr. Billy Franklin.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Robertson of Baltimore, Mrs. Martha Henderson and friend, Mr. Carl T. Wheeler of Waynesboro and Mrs. Harry Danuran and son, Chris of Carlton, Va. were visitors of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Watson, Sr. during last week.

Rev. and Mrs. Harry Randell of Douglas, Wy. have arrived for a visit with Mrs. Randall's mother, Mrs. Iva covington and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Menser and family of Hampton spent a few days last week with his parents, Rev. and Mrs. Menser and family. Other guest in this home Tuesday were Mrs. Rolfe Benningham and Mrs. Agnes Gormes of Arvonia.

Mrs. Claude Hamlett of Hurt visited her mother, Mrs. Virgie Beasley at the Martin-Woodridge Nursing home Thursday.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coleman last week were Mrs. Lightner and sister of Portsmouth, Mr. Alfred Almond, Mr. Herbert Abbitt, Mr. Joe Goin and Mr. Calvin Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Jennings, Mrs. Vara Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Watson Sr. were visitors Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. David Bepass and family and Mr. Richard and Walker Webb. Others calling in this home were Mr. Scott Sheets and Mr. Monroe Webb.

Miss Becky Webb spent last, week with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Webb. Others calling in this home were Mrs. Scott Sheets, Mr. Walker and Richard Webb, Mr. Jim Webb, Tim and Brandy Webb.

Calling in the home of Mrs. Mary Bagby last week were Mr. Billy Ferguson, Mrs. Madeline Inge, Mr. and Mrs. Grover Beasley Jr., Mrs. Andy Davis, Mrs. James Mawyer, Rev. Dan Menser, Mr. Richard Webb, Mr. Alfred Almond, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Watson and family, Mr. Thomas Woodall, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Deaner, Dawn, Delorious Ann and Stuart Deaner, Katherine and Julia Wingfield, Mr. Arron Wilson, and Mrs. John Goin.

Mt. Shiloh

"Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him and his work before him." Isaiah 40:10

A successful revival was conducted at Mt. Shiloh, and we rejoiced to have one convert.

The Rev. S. C. Terry preached an inspirational message each night, and beautiful music was rendered by local choirs.

We were glad to have the Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Lawing, to worship with us on Wednesday night. Also, the newly elected pastor, Rev. Leonard L. Tuille, attended the Wednesday night service.

Rev. Tuille will preach the regular fourth Sunday message, and will conduct the complete pastoral service. Let's pray and work together with our new pastor, Rev. Tuille.

Remember to pray for the sick, the needy, and the shut-in.

Have a good week!

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